

**5277. Adulteration and misbranding of pepper. U. S. \* \* \* v. The Hudson & Gram Co., a corporation. Plea of guilty. Fine, \$20.**  
(F. & D. No. 7700. I. S. No. 20911-1.)

On November 22, 1916, the United States attorney for the District of Oregon, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for said district an information against the Hudson & Gram Co., a corporation, Portland, Oreg., alleging shipment by said company, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, on or about October 23, 1915, from the State of Oregon into the State of Washington, of a quantity of pepper which was adulterated and misbranded. The article was labeled in part: "H. & G. Brand Pepper \* \* \*."

Analysis of a sample of the article by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed the following results:

Ash (per cent)-----	20. 41
'Acid-insoluble ash (per cent)-----	13. 51
Crude fiber (per cent)-----	17. 27

The above analysis shows that the sample contained sand and added pepper shells.

Adulteration of the article was alleged in the information for the reason that substances, to wit, sand and added pepper shells, had been mixed and packed therewith so as to lower or reduce and injuriously affect its quality and strength, and had been substituted in part for pepper, which the article purported to be.

Misbranding was alleged for the reason that the statement, to wit, "Pepper \* \* \* Highest Grade," borne on the label of the article regarding it and the ingredients and substances contained therein, was false and misleading in that it represented that the article was highest grade pepper; and for the further reason that the article was labeled as aforesaid, so as to deceive and mislead the purchaser into the belief that it was a pepper of the highest grade, whereas, in truth and in fact, it was not, but was a mixture consisting of pepper, sand, and added pepper shells.

On December 1, 1916, the defendant company entered a plea of guilty to the information, and the court imposed a fine of \$20.

R. A. PEARSON, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*